

# Fort Leonard Wood Celebrates the Groundbreaking of State-of-the-Art CBRN Responders Training Facility

*By Mr. Victor Ellis and Mr. Pat Olson*

*“Our vision is for the Chemical Corps to be a superbly equipped and trained force that is a true combat multiplier for the combatant commander. The US Army Chemical School is helping accomplish this mission by preparing our Army to fight and win, unhindered by threatened or actual CBRN hazards. We are a professional corps of Soldiers that are imbued with the warrior ethos and are technically and tactically ready to face the challenges of the future. Together, we provide a synergistic effect that makes Chemical Corps Soldiers both vital and relevant for the combatant commanders, the joint warfighters, and the defense of the homeland.”<sup>1</sup>*

*—Brigadier General Stanley H. Lillie  
Chief of Chemical*

On 28 June 2005, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, celebrated the groundbreaking ceremony for the First Lieutenant Joseph Terry Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Responders Training Facility. Major General Randal R. Castro, Commanding General of Fort Leonard Wood and the Maneuver Support Center, and Brigadier General Stanley H. Lillie, Chief of Chemical and Commandant of the US Army Chemical School (USACMLS), joined with distinguished visitors to take part in the historic ceremony. The \$15-million facility, scheduled to open in 2007, will provide state-of-the-art training for Army National Guard civil support teams (CSTs), US Army chemical units with homeland security missions, Department of Defense (DOD) emergency response teams, and CBRN

installation support teams (ISTs). The training facility will focus on CBRN individual response certification training to Soldiers and Airmen and will be named in honor of First Lieutenant Joseph Terry.



**The first shovels of dirt are turned at the groundbreaking ceremony.**

First Lieutenant Terry served in Company D of the 86th Chemical Mortar Battalion during World War II. On 3 December 1944, First Lieutenant Terry saved six men from certain death following a prolonged artillery barrage in Vossenack, Germany. The actions taken by First Lieutenant Terry in the face of adversity during combat operations serve as a prime example of unselfish dedication and behavior that exemplifies what we now refer to as *Warrior Ethos*. "Warrior ethos compels all Soldiers to fight through all conditions to victory, no matter how long it takes and no matter how much effort is required. It is the Soldiers' selfless commitment to the Nation, mission, unit, and fellow Soldiers."<sup>2</sup> For his heroic acts, First Lieutenant Terry was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

In keeping with Public Law 103-160 and the mandated consolidation of all DOD chemical and biological defense programs, the USACMLS is focusing on the modernization of and improvement to the operational warfighting ability of the Corps.<sup>3</sup> Through the vast efforts of Soldiers and civilian personnel at Fort Leonard Wood, a consolidated effort was formally undertaken in February 2003 to design a new building and training area. From the initial design through the various stages of design reviews and a cost value engineering study, the final design depicts a CBRN Responders Training Facility that will meet the emerging needs of a Nation at war and help combat the ever-present threat of terrorist attacks on our homeland.

The main facility design incorporates an exercise control room that serves as the nucleus for visually monitoring and capturing training conducted concurrently. Cameras, to include infrared capability for areas with limited visibility, will be positioned throughout the facility. The design incorporates six classrooms, an after-action review facility, and offices for staff and cadre. Two large bay areas will provide indoor decontamination training exercises. Two virtual reality simulation areas will be incorporated into the main facility design.

An urban exercise training area will include a factory, a post office, and two warehouses to facilitate realistic

CBRN identification, evacuation, and decontamination training. The buildings will be interconnected by an underground tunnel system that will have various access routes common to the contemporary operating environment. One of the warehouses will have a three-story design that includes blast damage to the exterior and interior. A two-lane roadway leading to an overturned tanker truck will provide training in spill cleanups. Pressurized and nonpressurized tank cars, a boxcar, and a dedicated intermodal container are some of the features of the railcar training area. A remote area will provide an elaborate on-site cave complex to support confined-space and clandestine-laboratory training.



**An artist's rendition of the CBRN Responders Training Facility**

The USACMLS first-response training is taught by the 3d Chemical Training Brigade, Incident Response Training Department (IRTD). There is no dedicated facility at Fort Leonard Wood to conduct this training, so it is conducted in a facility intended for training during inclement weather. The following training is currently offered:

- **Installation Emergency Responder Training Course.** This course is designed to provide installation law enforcement, emergency medical service, medical, firefighting, installation operations center, and first-responder rescue personnel with the basic skills and knowledge needed to react to a terrorist, CBRN, or hazardous-material (HAZMAT) incident.
- **Installation Staff Planners Course.** This course is designed to familiarize installation planners, installation operations center personnel,

emergency disaster planning officers, and emergency response working groups with the procedures for preparing an installation to respond to a CBRN incident.

- **Civil Support Skills Course.** This course is designed to train and certify individual Army National Guard CST-WMD personnel in CBRN and civilian HAZMAT response at the technician level.

The following training will be added when the new facility is complete:

- **Installation Support Team Course.** This course is designed to train ISTs on chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosives (CBRNE) hazards, sampling, reconnaissance, survey operations, basic decontamination procedures, and the use of personal protective equipment. The course also provides the installation commander with an organic capability to mitigate the effects of a CBRN incident.
- **Gas Chromatograph/Mass Spectrometer Course.** This course is designed to train DOD civilian and military personnel on operational procedures and implementation and maintenance techniques.
- **Chemical Unit Domestic Reconnaissance Course.** This course is designed to teach chemical officers and enlisted personnel the tactics, techniques, and procedures needed to conduct a domestic reconnaissance mission.
- **Chemical Unit Mass-Casualty Decontamination Course.** This course is designed to teach Chemical Corps officers and enlisted personnel the techniques necessary to perform team domestic response mass-casualty decontamination.

From the contemporary architecture and modern building design to the vast training areas, the CBRN Responders Training Facility was designed to impart our military with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to effectively operate and defend our Nation from a CBRN terrorist attack. Regardless of the type of threat, the reality is that

our homeland is not immune to a terrorist attack. And deadly chemicals, radiological materials, and dangerous biological agents are routinely transported on our interstate highways. The Chemical Corps is vigilant of these concerns and, through the new training facility, seeks to better prepare our military to support this critical role. The new facility and its state-of-the-art provisions will enable our military to expand their warrior expertise from the battlefield to the streets by providing military assistance to civil authorities (as directed in Defense Reform Initiative Directive 25).<sup>4</sup>

The DOD continues to prepare chemical warriors to serve in the domestic arena as combat multipliers for our Nation's homeland security. Working alongside six other federal agencies (the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Health and Human Services, and Department of Energy), the Corps will join the front line of defense against adversaries seeking to counter our operational advantages with their own strategic effects. While our Nation stands unrivaled in its ability to project combat power, the USACMLS remains committed to defending our Nation (at home and abroad) against terrorist threats—long before they happen—through realistic training and support to civil authorities. 🇺🇸

#### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup>"CBRN Defender," *Military Medical Technology Online Edition*, <[http://www.military-medical-technology.com/print\\_article.cfm?DocID=653](http://www.military-medical-technology.com/print_article.cfm?DocID=653)>, accessed on 29 June 2005.

<sup>2</sup>"ArmyStudyGuide.com," <<http://www.armystudyguide.com/Warrior-Ethos/index.html>>, accessed on 29 June 2005.

<sup>3</sup>Public Law 103-160, Section 1703 (50 United States Code [USC] 1522).

<sup>4</sup>Defense Reform Initiative Directive 25, *DOD Plan for Integration of the National Guard and Reserve Component Into Domestic Weapons of Mass Destruction Terrorism Response*, 26 January 1998.

---

*Mr. Ellis is a management and program analyst with the Combat Division, OPM-SANG, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He holds a bachelor's degree in English and education from Drury University.*

*Mr. Olson is a training specialist in the Individual and Collective Training Development Division, DOT-TD, USACMLS.*